

# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR DISPATCH NO. MAYA-3470  
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

**CLASSIFICATION**

TO : Chief, Foreign Branch M  
DATE: 7 September 1949  
FROM : Acting Chief of Station, Vienna Attentioni  
SUBJECT: GENERAL-Operational General  
SPECIFIC General

1. Forwarded herewith are notes made by [ ] on interviews he has had recently with persons of importance on the Austrian political scene. In line with his instructions, all of these persons, with the exception of Dr. Alfred KASABAS, are connected with the Socialist Party, its press, trade union activity, or youth movement.

2. The notes are completely informal and are not to be regarded in any sense as covert intelligence. They are of interest chiefly as indicating the persons with whom [ ] is establishing contact and show his progress in building up a series of associations within the Socialist Party. What is important in this connection is the gradual isolation of persons within the Socialist Party whom we can regard as suitable for future cultivation.

3. The interviews with Paul BLAU and Peter STRASSER are particularly significant as the basis for further exploitation of the Socialist youth movement.

4. On the whole, we are favorably impressed with the adaptability shown by [ ] in making himself agreeable to the various persons whom he has interviewed, and we consider the prospects of further boring into the Socialist Party to be fairly promising.

Attachments:  
14 pages

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FORM NO. 51-10  
APR 1947

CLASSIFICATION

PROBST, Otto (Sec. of SPD) 17 August 1949

German Elections: Probst said he and other Austrian Socialists were quite disappointed over the results of the elections in Germany. The SPD is carefully studying the whole election campaign in Germany to see what was done wrong. Probst believes that two major factors are responsible for the defeat of the ~~SPD~~ SPD. 1. Schumacher was entirely too tactless during the campaign and treaded on many toes. His international connections were poor and he made a big mistake in alienating the British Labour Party. In Germany, nationalism is particularly suspect, Schumacher made the mistake of playing up nationalism thereby partially alienating any help or support he might have received from the West.

2. Without Eastern Germany, the going will always be tough for the Social Democrats in Germany. This is especially true in view of the preponderance of Catholics in Western and Southern Germany.

Probst said he had expected a coalition between the SPD and the CDU, but supposed that this is too difficult in view of the vast differences in the basic approaches to economic problems. The situation is better in Austria, in this respect, since there still are ÖVPers with whom the Socialists can work and a great many social men like Dr. Eugen Wargaretha with whom the Socialists hit it off especially well.

Fourth Party Issue: Probst expressed his dismay and disapproval of the US stand on fourth parties; praised Dobretschberger and said that Kraus constituted no real danger. The real danger lies within the ranks of the ÖVP.